

women, and very probably of the beautiful ^{and} unfortun; Queen of Prussia, respecting whom he had expressed himself with too little respect in one of his bulletins. The following is Napoleon's letter : —

I have received your letter, in which you seem to reproach me speaking ill of women. It is true that I dislike female intriguers at > all things. I am used to kind, gentle, and conciliatory women. I < them, and if they have spoiled me it is not my fault, but yours. However, you will see that I have done an act of kindness to one deserving woman. I allude to Madame de Hatzfeld. When I showed her : husband's letter she stood weeping, and in a tone of mingled grief & ingenuousness said, "It is indeed his writing!" This went to my heart and I said, "Well, madame, throw the letter into the fire, and they shall have no proof against your husband." She burned the letter, and was restored to happiness. Her husband now is safe: two hours later and he would have been lost. You see, therefore, that I like women * are simple, gentle, and amiable; because they alone resemble you.¹

November 6, 1806, 9 o'clock P.M.

¹ Rapp sustained a prominent part in the affair; and though his account of it, and that given by Bourrienne, be not precisely similar they nevertheless correspond in all important particulars.

Prince B. Hatzfeld had come to Potsdam as a deputy from the city of Berlin and had been well received. He rendered an account of his mission, as far as I can recollect, to Count Hohenlohe, and reported to him the state of the troops, artillery, and ammunition that were in the capital, or which he had met on the road. His letter was intercepted. Napoleon delivered it to me with orders immediately to arrest the Prince and send him to the headquarters of Marshal Davoust, which were two leagues distant. Berthier, Duroc, Caulaincourt, and I vainly endeavored to appease the anger of Napoleon. He refused to listen to our representations. Prince Hatzfeld had transmitted reports relative to military affairs which were quite unconnected with his mission: he had evidently been acting the part of a spy. Savary, who in his quality of commander of the military gendarmerie, usually took cognizance of affairs of this kind, was then on a mission. I was obliged to assume his functions during his absence. I gave orders for the arrest of the Prince but instead of having him conducted to the headquarters of Davoust, I placed him in the chamber of the officer commanding the palace-guard, whom I directed to treat him with every mark of respect.

Caulaincourt and Duroc withdrew from the Emperor's apartment. Napoleon was left alone with Berthier, and he directed him to sit down and write the order by which M. de Hatzfeld was to be arraigned before a military commission. The major-general made some representations in my favor. "Your Majesty will not, for so trivial an offence, shoot a man who connected with the first families in Berlin. The thing is impossible, you will not think of it." The Emperor grew more angry. "Isten befoelje I persisted in his intercession; Napoleon lost all patience, and Berthier quitted the room I was called in. I had overheard the scene that had just taken place. I was afraid to hazard the least reflection; I was in a state of agony. Bask in the repugnance I felt in being instrumental to so harsh a measure, it was necessary to write as rapidly as the Emperor spoke; and I must confess never possessed that talent. He dictated to me the following order: —